

REMARKS

Claims 23-26, 28-33, 35-37, and 48 are pending. Claims 23, 25, 31, and 48 have been amended to correct typographical errors and to further clarify that the binder comprises at least one of nitrile rubber, styrene-butadiene rubber, or polyisoprene. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification, for example, on page 13, line 22, through page 14, line 1. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

I. Claims 23-26, 28, 29, 31-33, 35, and 36 are Novel and Not Obvious in view of Tintelnot

Claims 23-26, 28, 29, 31-33, 35, and 36 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Tintelnot (U.S. 2001/0041529 A1). Applicants request reconsideration of this rejection because Tintelnot does not teach or suggest a cleaning article having a binder “comprising at least one of nitrile rubber, styrene-butadiene rubber, or polyisoprene,” as currently recited in Applicants’ claims.

Tintelnot reports a cleaning body having continuously formed raised ridges of varying heights. The scrubbing surface disclosed in Tintelnot is coated with polyurethane (see, e.g., paragraphs 0017 and 0033). Tintelnot does not teach or suggest a cleaning article having a binder “comprising at least one of nitrile rubber, styrene-butadiene rubber, or polyisoprene” as recited in Applicants’ claims. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 23-26, 28, 29, 31-33, 35, and 36 in view of Tintelnot should be withdrawn.

II. Claims 30, 37, and 48 are Not Obvious in view of Tintelnot

Claims 30, 37, and 48 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Tintelnot. For the reasons stated above, Applicants request reconsideration of this rejection because Tintelnot does not teach or suggest a cleaning article having a binder “comprising at least one of nitrile rubber, styrene-butadiene rubber, or polyisoprene,” as currently recited in Applicants’ claims.

Further, Applicants disagree that the dimensions of the rubber particles claimed by Applicants involve routine skill in the art. Contrary to the Office Action’s assertion, the “general

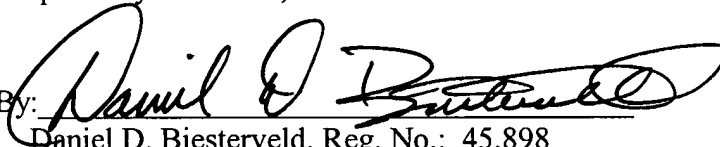
conditions” purported to be disclosed by Tintelnot do not provide any sort of “range” from which an optimum or workable rubber particle size could be found using routine skill in the art (see, e.g., Tintelnot, paragraphs 17 and 34). Accordingly, the rejection of claims 30, 37, and 48 as allegedly being obvious in view of Tintelnot should be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants’ undersigned representative with any questions concerning Applicants’ application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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